

Whiting Tower

NAS Whiting Field, Milton, Fla.

"THE WORLD'S MOST EFFICIENT NAVAL AIR COMPLEX"

Vol. 65 No. 7

Wednesday, February 18, 2009

Kennedy Passes Command of HT-18 to Murray

Cmdr. Mark Murray will relieve Lt. Col. James Kennedy as the commanding officer of Helicopter Training Squadron EIGHTEEN (HT-18) Thursday, Feb. 19 at 11 a.m. in the Naval Air Station Whiting Field auditorium.

The change of command ceremony is a time-honored tradition that provides

the assembled unit the opportunity to witness the transfer of authority from one officer to another. Passing the command from a Marine to a Navy officer is uncommon in military commands, but is the standard for HT-18



Lt. Col. James Kennedy

and Murray will turn over command to Lt. Col. Shawn Coakley following his tour as commanding officer of the squadron.

During Kennedy's 23-month tenure as executive officer and then commanding officer, the Vigilant Eagles flew more than 47,000 flight hours, completed in excess of 25,500

syllabus events, and designated 429 Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Allied Aviators. While he served as commanding officer of the squadron, the unit surpassed 1,115,000 Class "A" mishap-free flight hours - a milestone



Cmdr. Mark Murray

which encompasses more than 37 years. Kennedy's leadership inspired the squadron to unprecedented success, earning the 2007 Vice Admiral Robert Goldthwaite and Chief of Naval Air Training Awards for Training Excellence, the 2007 Chief of Naval Operations Safety Award and the 2007 Admiral John H. Towers Flight Safety

Award.

Kennedy's career covers approximately 19 years and tours of duty in Hawaii, California, and three at Whiting Field. He has flown nearly 200
- (Cont. on Page 2)

CNP Requires ESRs for Service Members

- Account Must be Established Within 60 Days of NAVADMIN
From Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) - The Chief of Navy Personnel released a NAVADMIN Feb. 5 announcing the requirement for all active-duty and Reserve personnel to establish and maintain a self-service Electronic Service Record (ESR) account within the next 60 days.

"Having a self-service account is necessary for updating emergency contact information. Self-service accounts contain other important features, such as enabling Sailors to directly submit PCS (permanent change of station) travel claims upon PCS transfer, update race, ethnicity, and religion information, and view all other ESR service

record information," said Vice Adm. Mark Ferguson, chief of naval personnel in NAVADMIN 043/09.

The requirement date for Sailors serving at sea and without connectivity to establish an ESR is 60 days upon return to homeport.

The Navy first implemented ESRs in 2006. The ESR provides individual Sailors, Personnel Support Activity Detachments (PSD), personnel offices holding service records, Navy Operational Support Centers, and customer commands of PSDs, with secure worldwide Internet access to personnel, training, and awards data.

The ESR replaces the paper service record as the single field lev-

el data entry point for service record maintenance. Commands are required to use all available ESR functionality.

Self-service accounts can be created at <https://nsips.nmci.navy.mil>

- (Cont. on Page 6)

ID Card Office
The Naval Air Station Whiting Field ID Card office will be open from 6 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20, to accommodate persons working the overnight shift. Other days will maintain the normal 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. office hours. Please call Paula Rippetoe at (850) 623-7159 or email paula.rippetoe.ctr@navy.mil with any questions.

From the Deckplate:



CMDCM Hari Singh

The command will take a moment Feb. 25 to pause and reflect on the contributions African-Americans have made to our Navy and Nation. We will have a luncheon at Wing's Club Ballroom beginning at 1100 to celebrate their impact and to remember the strength our society gains by the multi-cultural make-up of our country. I hope you will attend, because there are many stories to tell.

For example, Landsman Aaron Anderson, a 52 year old Philadelphia cook enlisted in the Navy in 1863. Two years later as the union Navy, including his ship the USS Wyandank, blockaded the Potomac River, Anderson was part of an assault force sent up one of the tributaries. While under heavy fire from Confederate forces on the shore, Anderson's craft was able to destroy several Confederate ships. The boat took severe damage, but was able to return to the blockade flotilla. Anderson and one other member of the crew were individually cited for carrying out their "duties courageously while under devastating fire." This made Anderson the first Navy African-American recipient of the Medal of Honor

Eighty-eight Medals of Honor have been awarded to 87 African-Americans, with Robert Augustus Sweeney the only one to receive it twice and one of only 19 two-time recipients. A Sailor, Sweeney received both awards for peace time actions in the 1880s.

Then there is the "Centennial Seven," a group of seven Naval Officers who were the first to command Naval submarines. Three of the officers are still in service and serving as Admirals. Retired Navy Captain and one of the seven, Dr. William F. Bundy spoke at an NAACP event last November celebrating the "Centennial Seven." His words have a passionate connotation for those who serve in the military.

"The real meaning of patriotism has two faces – a view of the past in which we cherish our heritage and love of country and a view to the future illuminated with beams of hope and the determination to create a world that is better than the one we grew up in – a hope for ourselves, our children after them. It is up to us to balance these views in our lives and in the will of our government."

The strength and commitment needed to persevere through adversity to achieve such milestones is unimaginable, but they have broken down barriers for others to follow. With more than 94,000 African-Americans serving in the Navy's total force, the achievements of Black Sailors will become greater and the horizons wider.

Diversity of thought, culture, ideas and experiences strengthen our Nation and the Navy who protects her. The Chief of Naval Operations in his diversity policy says: Diversity "keeps our Navy strong and empowers the protection of the very freedoms and opportunities we enjoy each and every day. The vast talent, diversity, and experience of our citizens will continue to be our strength and will ensure our Navy's relevance and our Nation's security and prosperity."

So I hope you will join me in celebrating our diversity next Wednesday and learn about other inspirational aspects of our Nation's African-American culture.

Change of Command

- (Cont. from Page 1)

combat sorties in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and was recognized as the Flight Instructor of the Year in 1997 and the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Aviator of the Year in 2005. Kennedy has accumulated more than 5,000 flight hours in his career and earned the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with Gold Star, Air Medal with Combat "V" and Strike/Flight numeral "9", and the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal.

Murray takes command of the squadron after

serving as the executive officer. He has been with the command since June 2007, and is an 18-year aviator. During his career he has flown more than 2,800 hours and has received the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal with bronze star, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (four awards), the Joint Service Achievement Medal, and the Navy Achievement Medal.

Col. Scott Walsh, Commander Training Air Wing FIVE, will serve as the guest speaker for the event.

The NAS Whiting Field & Training Air Wing Five Equal Employment Opportunity Advisory Committee Presents a Black History Month

Annual Celebration

REALIZING THE DREAM

1st Black President

Robert H. Lawrence
1st Black Astronaut

1st Black Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff

Tiger Woods
1st Person to Win All Four Major Professional Golf Championships In A Row

1st Black Female Billionaire & 1st Black Television Host

Martin Luther King Jr.
Civil Rights Leader & Youngest Nobel Peace Prize Winner

Guest Speaker Reverend Frederick Smith, NAACP
11:00 - 12:30 PM Wednesday February 25, 2009
Wings Club Ballroom
NAS Whiting Field

News and Notes

Advancement Exams - The Navy advancement exams for E4, E5 and E6 candidates will occur on the following schedule: E6 - Mar. 5; E5 - Mar. 12; and E4 - Mar. 19. The E4 and E6 tests will be held in the Wings Club Ballroom while the E5 exam will happen in Sikes Hall. All participants must have the uniform of the day on with their military ID card. No cell phones or watches are allowed during the examination.

Disney for the Troops - Disney parks celebrate the U. S. military with free multi-day admissions to theme parks in 2009. Disney is granting active duty, reserve members on active duty, and military retirees a free five-day hopper pass. This includes members of the U. S. Coast Guard and National Guard. Eligible patrons may also purchase up to five additional five-day (non-hopper) passes for \$99 each. Tickets are valid up through June 12 for the California park and until Dec. 23 for the Florida parks. See www.disney-world.com/military or your ITT office for more information.

Mardi Gras Ball - The 13th Annual Arc Santa Rosa Mardi Gras Ball will be held at NAS Whiting Field's Sikes Hall Feb. 21 at 6 p.m. The evening will begin with a social hour followed by dinner, door prizes and a silent auction. Music will be provided by the Main Street Band. Tickets are \$50 per person or \$350 per table of eight. Please RSVP by Feb. 6. Call 623-9320 for details.

Music as a Weapon Tour - The chart-topping hard rock band Disturbed will swing into the Pensacola Civic Center April 7, at 7 p.m., as part of their North American tour. They will be joined at the stop by Killswitch Engage and Five Finger Death Punch. Tickets are on sale now for \$44.50 General admission floor and \$37.50 for reserved seating through the Pensacola Civic Center box office or ticketmaster outlets.

Riverwalk Arts Festival - Historic Downtown Milton will host the 21st Annual Riverwalk Arts Festival March 14-15 from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.. The event will feature fine art, folk art, multi-cultural music, and other entertainment. There will also be festival foods and childrens games. The event is sponsored by the Santa Rosa Arts and Culture foundation in partnership with the City of Milton. Call 850-623-8493 or 3117 or see www.sracf.org for details.

Bonnie Raitt in Concert - Tickets are on sale now for Bonnie Raitt's concert at the Pensacola Civic Center. Originally scheduled



Recognizing Our Best and Brightest

Col. Scott Walsh, Commander Training Air Wing FIVE, presents the Commodore's List Certificate to Ens. Gregory Carter for his outstanding academic achievements during primary flight training. U. S. Navy photo by Marc Bizzell.

for performance at the Saenger Theatre, the March 11 concert was moved in case the Theatre renovations were not completed. Tickets already purchased for the Saenger Theatre may be exchanged at the Civic Center Box Office if purchased from a Ticketmaster outlet or at the Saenger Theatre Box Office. Tickets purchased online may be exchanged by calling Ticketmaster at 800-653-8000.

March Badness - Tickets are on sale for the fight card featuring Roy Jones, Jr. March 21 at the Pensacola Civic Center. Jones will square off against Light Heavyweight contender Omar Sheika. IBF number 2 Cruiserweight B. J. Flores will be featured on the card along with three Mixed Martial Arts contests. Tickets range from \$28 to \$128 and are available at all Ticketmaster locations and the Pensacola Civic Center Box Office.

Military Discount - Recanati's Italian Restaurant's two locations, on Avalon Highway and Berryhill Road, now offers anyone with a military ID a 10 percent discount on foods purchased. All items delivered to the base will receive the same discount with a \$10 minimum purchase. Call 850-626-2778 for information.

Massage Therapy Studio - Jennifer Merhige, L.M.T. (MA53722), a licensed massage therapist provides Swedish, Deep Tissue and Chair Massages in the NAS Whiting Field Fitness Center. Call 352-678-1105 for an appt. and prices.

Fishin' With a Mission - The United Way of Santa Rosa County will host their "Fishin' With a Mission" bass tournament and family festival April 11 at Carpenter's Park. Registration begins Feb. 17 at the United Way offices at 6576 Caroline St or 6479 Highway 90 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Top prize is anticipated to be \$3,000. Call 623-4507 or check out bassfishing@unitedwaysrc.org. Rusty Whitfield will be the premiere performer for the family day at the park.

Spring Classes from Troy - Troy University will begin teaching courses at Whiting Field during the Spring Term. American National Government, Organizational Behavior, and U. S. History to 1877 will be offered. Classes will be taught via VTC, however future classes may be taught live if class sizes will support. Troy University requires at least 10 students registered to bring an instructor on-site. The Spring classes will be taught in Bldg. 1471 (old Ops bldg) but will move to the new Atrium Bldg once it is complete. If you have never utilized Tuition Assistance (TA), you will need to have a TA brief prior to it being approved. Registration is in progress and classes begin March 16. Call 981-0333 for more information.



Recognizing Our Best and Brightest...Too

Training Air Wing FIVE Commodore Col. Scott Walsh also recognizes Ens. Dustin Henze with the Commodore's List citation for his academic success. U. S. Navy photo by Marc Bizzell.

Upcoming Events

Feb 19, 1000 - HT-18 Change of Command - Auditorium

Feb 19, 1800 - Main St Milton Mardi Gras Parade

Feb 20, 1000 - Aviation Boatswain's Mate Golf Tournament

Feb 20, 1600 - Mardi Gras Party - Wing's Club

Feb 21, 1100 - Navarre Beach Mardi Gras Parade

Feb 21, 1800 - ARC Mardi Gras Ball - Wings Club Ballroom

Feb 24, 1800 - Lion's Club FIOY Banquet - New World Land

Feb 25, 1130 - Black History Month Lunch - Wing's Club

Fleet and Family Support Center Classes

Me, Inc. - Monday, February 23, from 9 am – 12 noon

Learn the skills and techniques needed to establish your own business. This class will assist you in developing a business plan. Class will be held at the FFSC conference room. For more information, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 623-7177.

Home Buying - Monday, February 23, from 9 am – 12 noon

A home is one of the most complicated and costly purchases you'll ever make. Getting the best deal at the time of purchase can reduce "life of the loan" by thousands of dollars. Let us show you how. Class will be held at the FFSC conference room. For more information, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 623-7177.

Money & the Move - Tuesday, February 24, from 10 am – 12 noon

A Permanent Change of Station (PCS) move can be one of the most exciting adventures of your career as well as one of the best benefits. However, a PCS move can also become a financial disaster that can take months to recover from if not properly prepared for. Class will be held at the FFSC conference room. For more information, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 623-7177.

Thrift Savings Plan - Wednesday, February 25, from 1 – 3 pm

Start investing in your future now. The money you save and earn through your TSP account will provide an important source of retirement income. Class will be held at the FFSC conference room. For more information, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 623-7177.

Saving & Investing - Thursday, February 26, from 1 – 3 pm

Who wants to be a millionaire? Do you think you can become a millionaire on your military paycheck? This class will show you how money can grow. Class will be held at the FFSC conference room. For more information, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 623-7177.

Military Retirement - Friday, February 27, from 1 – 3 pm

Who is ready for their retirement? What do we even mean by the word "RETIREMENT"? The good news is that for a young person the strategy to fund retirement is a simple one; start early, stick with it, and save as much as possible. Class will be held at the FFSC conference room. For more information, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 623-7177.



Retaking the Oath

AC1 Thelma Cureton recites the reenlistment oath during her ceremony Tuesday, Feb. 10. She reenlisted for two years. U. S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

NMCRS Has High Hopes for 2009 Campaign!

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) raised more than \$327,000 in donations during the 2008 annual fund drive, and coordinators have high hopes for the 2009 campaign as it prepares to begin. Donations were collected from service members aboard Naval Air Station Pensacola, Naval Air Station Whiting Field and surrounding areas. Many local businesses and area residents also contributed to this worthwhile cause. Donations are used to provide financial assistance for service members, both active and retired, and their families that are in financial need due to emergency situations.

Much of the support for the 2008 campaign was generated by Capt. P. J. Dougherty and Lt. Cmdr. Bert Rice who travelled to the area's numerous commands to speak to service members about the importance of the society. Their perseverance led to the 2008's milestone, and they will continue their support for the 2009 drive.

The annual drive kicked-off Feb. 12 with the annual breakfast at the Naval Aviation Museum, and the fund raising will begin March 1. For more information, please contact Mark Harden, NMCRS Director at 850-452-2300.

Navy Emphasizes Fiscal Awareness Through Military Saves Week

Washington, DC—The Navy is taking the lead with the Department of Defense planning efforts for Military Saves Week, February 22 to March 1, 2009. Events are scheduled at Navy facilities throughout the United States and around the world.



“One of the Navy’s major goals,” according to David DuBois, Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) Deputy, Navy Fleet and Family Support Programs and Military Saves Campaign Leader, “is to encourage the Navy community as a whole to take action for their personal financial readiness, make a commitment to build wealth and reduce debt, create a culture that promotes individual financial fitness, and learn more about financial tools and resources promoted in the Military Saves Campaign.”

The Navy hopes to increase participation by at least 20% over last year. An impressive 45,000 sailors and their family members participated in the 2008 week-long event, including the Navy Youth Centers. CNIC continues to demonstrate its commitment to the program and is offering Liberty Centers a \$500 grant to create a Military Saves awareness/recreation program in partnership with Fleet and Family Support Centers.

Many Navy bases around the world will offer classes on saving and investing, basic money management, wise use of credit, retirement planning and many other financial topics. Installations will host kick-off events, financial fairs, fun runs, fun days, financial carnivals and scavenger hunts. Much of the Fleet will join the fun with ship-board events, contests, and other financial literacy activities.

Local Commanders will make proclamations supporting the Week, defense credit unions and military banks will offer incentives and special products to help military families boost their savings and diminish their debt, and many military-affiliated organizations including the Better Business Bureau, MWR, Children and Youth, Boys and Girls Clubs, the American Society of Military Comptrollers, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, Navy Exchange and Defense Commissary Agency will help reinforce the message to save: Build Wealth. Not Debt.

“The Navy is taking the lead in turning the world’s best fighting force into the country’s best savings team,” said Sarah Shirley, director of Military Saves. “Military banks and defense credit unions have partnered with Navy at the global and local level in ways that show how to promote financial stability and asset development, and at the same time improve your business model.

We hope that other organizations follow this lead.”

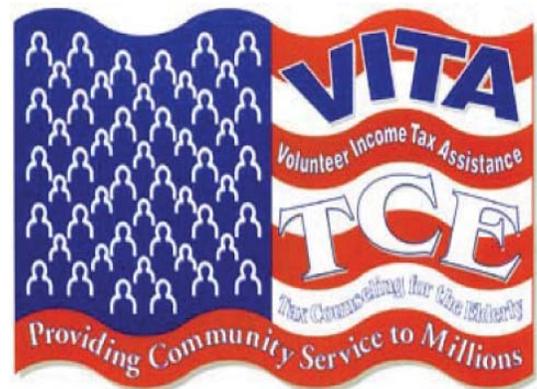
For those interested in learning more about Military Saves see www.militarysaves.org.

Weekly Tri-Care Notice

The placement of five additional, non-formulary (or third tier), medications on the TRICARE Uniform Formulary has been announced by Army Maj. Gen. Elder Granger, deputy director, TRICARE Management Activity. Three of the medications changed to non-formulary status on April 16, 2008, and two on June 18, 2008. A sixth medication, Flomax, will remain non-formulary under the Uniform Formulary, although additional step therapy/prior authorization requirements began on April 16, 2008.

First-tier medications (formulary generics) are available through a TRICARE Retail Pharmacy for \$3 co-pays for up to a 30-day supply, and through TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy for \$3 co-pays for up to a 90-day supply. Beneficiaries may purchase second-tier medications (formulary brand-name) for \$9 for up to a 30-day supply through a TRICARE Retail Network Pharmacy, or up to a 90-day supply through the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy, with third tier (non-formulary) medications costing \$22. If beneficiaries use a TRICARE Retail Non-Network Pharmacy, the cost share for second tier medications (formulary brand name) up to a 30-day supply is the higher of \$9, or 20% and for third tier medications (non-formulary) the higher of \$22, or 20%.

For a complete list of medications, their formulary status and where they are available, beneficiaries may visit www.tricareformularysearch.org/dod/medicationcenter/default.aspx.



NAS WHITING FIELD

TAX CENTER

VITA is the ONLY FREE Tax Preparation Service on base!

Location: Bldg. 2992 Supply Dept Rm. 21

Call: 623-7232

Hours: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

NAS WHITING FIELD TRAFFIC SAFETY TRAINING SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY 2009

28 Feb –1 Mar 2009 – 0730-1600 - Motorcycle Safety Foundation Basic Rider Course
27 Feb – Motorcycle Safety Foundation Military Sport Bike Course

MARCH 2009

25 Mar - 0800 – 1600 - American Automobile Association-Driver Improvement Program
26 Mar – 0730-1400 - Motorcycle Safety Foundation Experienced Rider Course
27 Mar – 0730-1600 - Motorcycle Safety Foundation Military Sport Bike Course
28 & 29 Mar – 0730-1600 - Motorcycle Safety Foundation Basic Rider Course

CLASS INFORMATION

Military Sport Bike Rider Course (MSRC) is mandatory for all active duty personnel who ride on or off base and all DoD civilians who ride sports bikes on base. The MSRC also meets the requirement for the three year re-qualification to receive a decal for base access. To qualify for the MSRC you must have completed an approved Motorcycle Safety Foundation approved Basic Rider Course or Experienced Rider Course.

The Basic Rider Course (BRC) is a 15 hour course designed for beginners or personnel who have not rode in a long period of time. It also meets the State of Florida requirement for a motorcycle endorsement on your license. The BRC is mandatory for active duty personnel who ride on and off base and all DoD civilians who ride on base.

The Experienced Rider Course (ERC) is a one day course and is designed for refresher training. The course meets the requirement for the three year requirement, except for personnel who ride sports bikes. Sports bike riders must complete the MSRC every three years.

American Automobile Association – Driver Improvement Program -This course is required for all Military and DOD civilians who operate government vehicles as part of their duties except emergency vehicle operators. DOD dependents and retired personnel may also attend on a space available basis. It is also mandatory for anyone involved in a at fault vehicle mishap with a government vehicle. The course is taught by a certified AAA-Driver Improvement instructor and is approximately 6 to 8 hours in length. Personnel who complete the course will receive a certificate of completion which can be used to receive discounts on their insurance premiums, depending on their insurance company. It also meets the Navy requirement for Driver Improvement training for persons age 26 and under. Enroll at www.navymotorcyclerider.com or contact Michael McMillan at (850) 452-3674.

Electronic Records

- (Cont. from Page 1)

or on the Navy Standard Integrated Personnel System (NSIPS) ESR server on board ship.

Commanding officers, executive officers and command master chiefs can obtain command level view only access by completing the NSIPS/ESR system authorization request and contacting their local NSIPS area manager. This access provides the user view only capability for all ESR accounts within their UIC(s).

All commands responsible for service record entries are required to initiate updates

in NSIPS ESR, however official military personnel file requirements remain unchanged.

NSIPS ESR is the data entry point for electronic service record maintenance. Sailors are responsible for the accuracy of their ESR and must contact the servicing personnel office if any information is incorrect.

For more information read NAVADMIN 043/09,
<http://www.npc.navy.mil/NR/rdonlyres/E434A6D2-021E-4E08-89CB-8FEA2F5408BD/0/NAV09043.txt>.



Congrats to TRAWING-5's Wingers and Scholars



First Row: CWO2 Kevin Holland, USN; Lt. j.g. Aaron Anderson, USN; Lt. j.g. John Gutierrez, USN; Ens. Benjamin Mulloy, USN; 1st Lt. Salvador Jauregui III, USMC; Ens. Adam Craig, USN; Ens. Fabio Cuccu, ITNAV; Lt. j.g. Nicholas Hazlett, USCG; Ens. Daniel Vroman, USN; and 1st Lt. Joseph Dalton, USMC. Second Row: Cmdr. Christopher Heaney, USN; Lt. Col. C. A. Stackhouse, USMC; 1st Lt. Kyle Christman, USMC; 1st Lt. Hayden Stevens, USMC; Ens. Jared Schmitt, USN; Ens. Ian Trainor, USN; Ens. Scott Kellerman, USN; Capt. Patrick Green, USMC; 1st Lt. Michael Balinsky, USMC; Ens. Andrew Howerton, USN; and Col. Scott Walsh, USMC. Third Row: Lt. Col. J. R. Kennedy, USMC; Ens. Adam Nelson, USN; 1st Lt. Joseph Mihoces, USMC; 1st Lt. Kyle Ladwig, USMC; Lt. j.g. Larry Santos, USCG; Ens. Sean Rice, USN; Ens. Andrew McDonald, USN; Ens. Timothy Labresh, USN; 1st Lt. Peter Marbach, USMC; Ens. Larry Camp, JR, USN; and Lt. Col. James Adams, USMC. U. S. Navy photo by Marc Bizzell.



Left Photo: 2nd Lt. James R. Butland, USMC; 2nd Lt. Brandon D. Kelly, USMC; Ens. Daniel K. Mackie, USN; 2nd Lt. Justin M. Mensen, USAF; Lt. j.g. William H. Mohr, USN; and Ens. Andrew R. Wilsnack, USN were recognized for their outstanding scholastic achievement during primary flight training with Academic Achievement Awards from Col. Scott Walsh, Commodore Training Air Wing FIVE. Right Photo: Walsh similarly recognized Ens. John A. Betza, USN; Lt. j.g. Matthew C. Mangaran, USN; Ens. Michael J. Panos, USN; 1st Lt. Kyle D. Smith, USMC; and Lt. j.g. Gordon R. McDonald, USN with Advanced Academic Achievement Awards for their success during advanced flight training. U. S. Navy photos by Marc Bizzell.

- SPORTS -

NFL's Franco Harris Visits Navy in Japan

By Dan Bowen, Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka Public Affairs

YOKOSUKA, Japan (NNS) -- National Football League (NFL) hall-of-famer and Super Bowl IX most valuable player Franco Harris visited Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) Feb. 12 as part of a tour of Far East U.S. military installations organized by California Sunshine and the Defense Commissary Agency.

The star running back, who won four super bowls with the Pittsburgh Steelers in the 1970s, spent his day on board CFAY touring the base and the USS George Washington (CVN 73), as well as meeting and greeting Sailors and family members at an autograph session at the commissary.

The tour, sponsored by California Sunshine - a dairy company supplier of eggs and milk to the commissary, enabled Harris to return to the Far East after first visiting three decades ago.

"I was here in the '70s when I was playing. [I] came over here and did a tour, here in Japan and Korea," said Harris. "Loved it then and I love it now."

Harris's love was reciprocated by Steeler Nation residents of CFAY. A line of fans, stretching from the dairy section, down the frozen foods freezers and all the way up the bread aisle, waited happily for their chance to sit down with the NFL legend.

Commissary Store Director Totolua Ripley was very pleased with the reaction to Harris's visit.

"More than 300 people showed up," said Ripley. "It was a great success; it was a great response from the community."

During the interview, Harris spoke about his career, his tour of the region, his pride in being a part of the Steeler football tradition and his respect for those who serve in the armed forces.

"I tell people that I've been on some great teams, played against a lot of great teams, but I know the greatest team in the world is our armed forces. I know that," said Harris.



Players from VT-3 prevent an HT-28 player from driving the lane during their 44-42 win Tuesday Feb. 17th. Lt Hayes hit the buzzer beater shot. U. S. Navy photo by 2nd Lt. Nicholas Uzelac.

Game Scores

2009 Soccer

Wednesday	2/11/2009	Sports Complex	Football/Soccer Field
5:00pm	5	HT-18	2
	2	VT-2	
6:00pm	7	COAST GUARD	
	3	HT-18	
7:00pm	9	COAST GUARD	
	4	HT-28	

Standings

2009 Soccer

Team	Won	Lost	Win %	Streak	RF	RA	GB
HT-28	5	1	.833	Lost 1	26	14	—
COAST GUARD	5	1	.833	Won 3	28	19	—
HT-18	2	4	.333	Lost 1	11	25	3.0
VT-2	0	6	.000	Lost 6	9	16	5.0

Standings

Captian's Cup Basketball 2009

Team	Won	Lost	Win %	Streak	RF	RA	GB
VT-3	6	0	1.000	Won 6	320	203	—
HT-28	5	1	.833	Won 4	313	246	1.0
ATC	4	2	.667	Won 2	271	271	2.0
HT-8	3	2	.600	Won 1	246	221	2.5
HT-18	3	3	.500	Lost 1	262	252	3.0
VT-2	3	4	.429	Lost 2	321	347	3.5
COAST GUARD	2	4	.333	Lost 1	237	254	4.0
CRASH	1	4	.200	Lost 4	162	225	4.5
MEDICAL	0	7	.000	Lost 7	255	368	6.5

Game Scores

Captian's Cup Basketball 2009

Thursday	2/5/2009	Gym Bldg 3148
5:00pm	44	HT-18
	30	COAST GUARD
6:00pm	38	MEDICAL
	59	HT-8
7:00pm	63	VT-2
	35	CRASH
Tuesday	2/10/2009	Gym Bldg 3148
5:00pm	52	COAST GUARD
	33	VT-2
6:00pm	50	VT-3
	43	HT-18
7:00pm	22	CRASH
	35	HT-28
Thursday	2/12/2009	Gym Bldg 3148
5:00pm	47	ATC
	26	MEDICAL
6:00pm	34	VT-2
	55	VT-3
7:00pm	50	HT-28
	40	COAST GUARD